

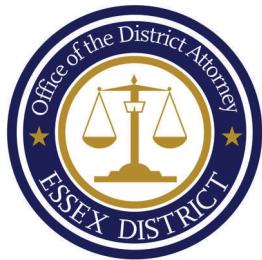


Frank G. Cousins, Jr.

Vol. 5

Official Newsletter of the Essex County TRIAD

TRIAD TELEGRAM



Jonathan W. Blodgett

Fall 2008

TRIAD is a partnership of law enforcement, senior citizens and community organizations. The purpose of TRIAD is to increase senior citizen safety through education and crime prevention.

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service providers were supplied information in regards to elder abuse.

As the theme of this year's conference, District Attorney Jonathan Blodgett stressed the importance of reporting abuse in the elder community. Massachusetts Secretary of the Executive Office of Elder Affairs, Michael E. Festa, discussed the growing issue of abuse and the importance of protecting our senior community.

In addition to District Attorney Blodgett and Sec-

Peabody Hosts the 3rd Essex County TRIAD Conference

As the Essex County TRIAD grows so does the annual Conference. With the biggest crowd yet, Peabody recently hosted the 3rd Essex County TRIAD Conference at the Peter A. Torigian Community Life Center on May 14, 2008.

From the start, approximately 200 senior citizens, law enforcement officials and senior



retary Festa, the audience was fortunate to hear Jonathan D. Fielding of the Executive Office of Elder Affairs discuss financial exploitation in the senior community. Dottie Davies of Greater Lynn Senior Services discussed the basics of Elder Abuse and Cheryl Watson, Director of the Victim/Witness Services of the Essex District Attorney's Office discussed the legal aspects of senior abuse.

In their evaluations, many in attendance expressed the highlights of the conference were the wonderful

(See Peabody, Page 5)

Wenham Hosts its First Public Safety Day

The Wenham Fire and Police Departments recently held the first Wenham Public Safety Day on Saturday, August 16, 2008.



information on File of Life and the new Grab and Go Bag program which was introduced to Wenham in May 2008. Wenham's Grab and Go Bags include essential items that seniors may need if they leave their residence in a hurry. These items included toothbrushes and toothpaste donated by Hamilton Dentistry; Pens and Paper donated by Countrywide Home Loans; and personal first aid kits purchased by the Wenham COA. The Wenham COA also purchased the bright yellow Grab and Go Bags from Kevin Brophy of Big Game Outfitters of Hamilton.

An early morning parade of 60 new and antique safety vehicles wound their way through the streets of Wenham to Pingree Fidrych of the Essex County Sheriff's Department Park. At the Park, many vendors and community groups set up tables and information booths and the fire department held their annual barbecue. Fire and Police personnel provided demonstrations. Fun was had by all!

The Wenham TRIAD's table provided

The Wenham TRIAD, in existence since August 2005, has been supported by Mariellen Fidrych of the Essex County Sheriff's Department over the past 3 years and has introduced several programs to their small community. As Wenham heads into the Fall of 2008, their hope is to continue with the File of Life, Grab and Go, Yellow Dot, and House Number pro-

911 Cellular Phone Program Suspended

The Essex County TRIAD will be suspending the Emergency 911 Cellular Phone Program. As of February, cellular phone companies are no longer required to provide 911 access to analog cellular phones that are not in service.

This unfortunate change has led to many analog cellular phones, distributed by the Essex County TRIAD, to be considered un-useable.

This unforeseen change, discovered by the diligence of the Gloucester TRIAD, has been reported to the Council on Aging (COA) Directors of Essex County. Seniors that received an Emergency 911 Cellular Phone are encouraged to bring their phone to their local COA to be checked.

(See 911, Page 3)

Town of Essex Joins the Essex County TRIAD

On May 12, 2008, the town of Essex joined the Essex County Triad as the 30th community in Essex County that now belongs to the growing Triad Program.

On hand for the signing of the by-laws were Mark Lynch, Chairperson of the Board of Selectmen, Police Chief Peter Silva, Fire Chief Richard Carter, Council on Aging Chairman Roger Lander, Housing Authority Director Al- gis Utens, and representatives from the Sheriff's Department and the District Attorney's Senior Center.



Office.

In celebration of the program, free photo identification cards were handed out to all seniors in attendance.

Officers were elected at the following meeting. Bob Cameron as was elected Chairperson.

The Council has success-

911 Cellular Phone Program Suspended

(911, from Page 2)

As the Federal Government requires, cellular phone companies must provide 911 access to digital phones that are not in service.

If you have any further questions, please contact your local Council on Aging or Capt. Jason R. Ebacher of the Essex County Sheriff's Department at (978) 750-1900 x. 3322.

A Special Good-Bye to Mariellen Fidrych!

Mariellen Fidrych recently bid farewell to the Essex County Triad Program and the Sheriff's Department.

Mariellen had been with the Triad Program since 2003. She served as a representative from the Sheriff's Department to many of the communities in Essex County over the past 5 years.

Her knowledge, charm, and smile will truly be missed; however, she did not go too far as she is now working for the Essex District Attorney's Office, handling juvenile programs!

Telemarketing Fraud

(Courtesy of Captain Jason Ebacher, Essex County Sheriff's Dept.)

As more Americans become senior citizens, many of our over 65 population are increasingly becoming the victims of scams. This increase is evident as my partners and I of the Essex County Sheriff's Department and Essex District Attorney's Office have seen a rise in inquiries and complaints from Essex County seniors.

Recently, the American Bar Association (ABA) published an article addressing three of the major scams targeting the elderly today. Based on their research, the ABA found that the most common scams affecting the elderly are telemarketing fraud, charity fraud and home improvement fraud. This article will focus on telemarketing fraud.

With telemarketing fraud being a 40 billion dollar a year business, much of the money comes from seniors. Seniors are generally targeted because they live alone, have free time to talk, more willing to continue conversations, less likely to hang up the phone for fear of being rude, maybe memory impaired and are generally a more trusting class of individuals.

Common telemarketing scams consist of Prizes and Sweepstakes where victims are informed that they have won or could win a prize. Once informed, the victim is then asked to send money to cover the taxes, shipping, or processing fees. After sending the requested money, the prize is generally never delivered.

In addition to the prospect of winning a prize, many seniors fall prey to investment scams due to living on fixed incomes and wanting to increase the value of their estate. These investments often consist of fake gemstones, uninhabitable property or shares in a non-existent or unprofitable company.

To protect yourself from unscrupulous con men or fast-talking brokers, seniors must be wary of unsolicited phone calls or letters, be suspicious of "insider information," "hot tips," or "rumors." Furthermore, seniors should demand written information from individuals contacting them, should never be afraid to ask questions, should never give in to high-pressure sales tactics, should read the fine print and only deal with established brokers.

Health/Remedy scams have also become a concern in the senior community. Many offenders will market a number of ineffective health remedies, as they will advertise it as a "miracle cure."

As telemarketing schemes rise at an alarming rate, seniors are encouraged to never disclose credit card and social security numbers to anyone who contacts them by telephone or Internet, ask detailed questions how that information is going to be used, research a company before doing business with them, and contact your local Police Department or Council on Aging if you have become the victim of fraud.

With telemarketing fraud being a 40 billion dollar a year business, much of the money comes from seniors.

Peabody Hosts the 3rd Essex County TRIAD Conference (cont.)

(Peabody, from page 1)



lunch provided by the Peabody Council on Aging and the Peabody TRIAD and the outstanding performance of the Peabody High School Chorus who entertained the crowd while lunch was served.

Following lunch, several Staples gift cards were raffled off to many Essex County TRIADs with the hopes that the winners would use them to fund future TRIAD projects. Individuals were also provided the

opportunity to network with other TRIADs within the county and to meet with local senior service vendors including Comfort Keepers, North East Senior Health, North Shore Elder Services, Greater Lynn Senior Services, Explorers Life Learning Institute, Go Direct and the Pace Program.

Special thanks to Carolyn Wynn, Director of the Peabody Council on Aging, and her fabulous staff for hosting the third Essex County TRIAD Conference.



Contents of this newsletter are intended for the Senior Citizens of Essex County.

To submit items to the Newsletter, please contact Capt. Jason Ebacher at the following address:

**Essex County Sheriff's Dept.
20 Manning Ave.
Middleton, MA 01949
Telephone: (978) 750-1900 x3322
Email: jebacher@eccf.com**

Established in 2006, the Andover TRIAD's efforts in implementing the 911 Cell Program have been very successful. Collection containers were designed and placed at eight Up, Yellow Dot, Grab and Go Bags, File of business locations in Andover. Twenty three Life, photo ID cards and eyeglass collection other businesses allowed the Andover TRIAD for the Lions Club. The success of the to place posters in their windows and bulletin board informing the public about the containing to church senior groups and conducting informational booths at community events.

As of June 2008 the Andover TRIAD had acquired 831 cellular phones. The first 500 cellular phones were donated to the Essex County Sheriff's Office for distribution to town parades and functions. other Essex County towns. The remainder of the donated cellular phones were sold to the National Council on Aging in Colorado, which has been extremely profitable. Funds received from this program has allowed the Andover TRIAD to fund numerous other programs. As

of June 2008, the Andover TRIAD earned \$765.60.

The Andover TRIAD is also working on: Is Your Number containers were designed and placed at eight Up, Yellow Dot, Grab and Go Bags, File of business locations in Andover. Twenty three Life, photo ID cards and eyeglass collection other businesses allowed the Andover TRIAD for the Lions Club. The success of the to place posters in their windows and bulletin board informing the public about the containing to church senior groups and conducting informational booths at community events.

Thanks to the Andover Police Department, Andover was able to purchase their own Andover TRIAD banner that has been used in several town parades and functions.

For further information concerning the Andover TRIAD, please contact the Andover Council on Aging at (978) 623-8321.

To have your TRIAD recognized under the Community Spotlight section, please contact any member of the below mentioned editorial board.

TRIAD Banner and Certificates of Appreciation Available!

TRIAD BANNER: The Essex County Triad Council has a beautiful banner available for groups who would like to borrow it to display at any kind of event which promotes the Triad Program. Contact Captain Jason Ebacher at 978-750-1900, ext. 3322.

CERTIFICATES OF APPRECIATION: Essex County TRIAD Certificates of Appreciation are available for retiring TRIAD council volunteers. If your community would like a certificate, signed by both the Sheriff and District Attorney, in appreciation of their service, please contact Debbie MacGregor in the DA's Office at 978-745-6610, ext. 5081.

Essex County TRIAD Telegram

Published for the senior citizens of Essex County.

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